

REMARKS

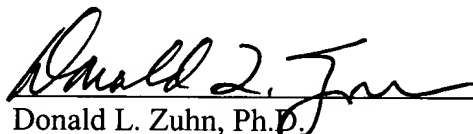
Claims 1, 23, 45, 50, and 51 have been amended, and claims 2-22, 24-40, 43, 44, and 49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 23, 41, 42, 45-48, and 50-59 are pending in the instant application. No new matter has been added as a result of the above-described amendments.

Applicants respectfully contend that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims as amended. Allowance of the claims is thereby respectfully solicited. If Examiner O'Hara believes it to be helpful, she is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Dated: March 1, 2004

By:


Donald L. Zuhn, Ph.D.
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